

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 EB-08 SS-15 IO-14 AID-05
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P 281918Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 247387

SANTIAGO FOR AMBASSADOR WHITE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IDB, EFIN, EAID, SHUM, PA

SUBJECT: U.S. GOVERNMENT VIEWS ON IDB LOAN FOR AGRI-
CULTURAL EDUCATION IN PARAGUAY

REF: A) ASUNCION 3950, B) ASUNCION 4395

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY VIEWS ON PARAGUAYAN APPLICATION
FOR IDB \$10.5 MILLION LOAN FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION,
EXPRESSED IN INTER-BUREAU AND INTER-AGENCY DISCUSSIONS
CONNECTED WITH REVIEW OF LOAN APPLICATION BY THE
WORKING LEVEL COMMITTEE OF THE INTERAGENCY GROUP ON
HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. DEPARTMENT AND
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OTHER AGENCIES GAVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO EMBASSY'S
VIEW REF A THAT PARAGUAY IS NOT BEING GIVEN CLEAR SIGNALS
OF U.S. VIEWS IN POSITIONS ON LOANS.

2. THE INTERAGENCY WORKING LEVEL COMMITTEE COULD NOT
REACH A FULL CONSENSUS THAT AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
PROJECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TO CONTRIBUTE TO BASIC

HUMAN NEEDS. THE VIEW WAS EXPRESSED THAT PREVIOUS FAIL-
URES OF PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT TO MAKE ADEQUATE BUDGET
COMMITMENT IN THIS SECTOR AS REPORTED REF B, BRINGS INTO
QUESTION WHETHER THE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION LOAN WOULD
INDEED REACH LOWER-INCOME GROUPS. DISCUSSIONS HERE
BROUGHT FORTH VIEWS THAT PARAGUAY HAS ALREADY-EXISTING

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES THAT ARE NOT BEING
FULLY UTILIZED, ON WHICH POINT WE WOULD APPRECIATE
EMBASSY'S COMMENT FOR USE OF THE INTERAGENCY GROUP BY
COB OCT. 4. IN ANY EVENT, WE BELIEVE THAT THESE AND
OTHER TECHNICAL QUESTIONS SHOULD PRECLUDE IDB BOARD CON-
SIDERATION OF THE LOAN BEFORE NOVEMBER OF DECEMBER.

3. ONLY ONE OTHER PARAGUAYAN LOAN APPLICATION, \$1.2
MILLION FOR PRE-INVESTMENT, IS EXPECTED TO COME UP BE-
FORE THE END OF THE YEAR IN IDB, AND THE INTERAGENCY
WORKING LEVEL COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED A "NO" VOTE TO
THE FULL GROUP, SINCE IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO MEET BASIC
HUMAN NEEDS CRITERIA.

4. DEPARTMENT SHARES EMBASSY'S CONCERN THAT GOP MAY HAVE
MISREAD U.S. VOTE ON IDB RURAL HEALTH LOAN AS SOFTENING
OF POLICY. THAT WAS NOT THE CASE. MOST AGENCIES ARE
PREPARED TO CONSIDER FSO LOANS FOR PROJECTS DIRECTED
AT BASIC HUMAN NEEDS, ASSUMING PARAGUAY WILL MOVE IN
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THE DIRECTION OF COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT WITH EQUITY,
AND EXPECTING THAT SUCH APPLICATIONS WILL PROBABLY COME
WITH SOME SPACING BETWEEN THEM. CHRISTOPHER

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